(d) whether there is requirement of more security personnels for curbing the illegal trafficking and the protection of various ASI's monuments and museums in the country; and

(e) if so, what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Seepage of water is observe particularly in the verandas, in cave Nos. 1, 2, 12, 16, 17, 21, 23 and 26.

The conservation of the Ajanta cave is a continuous and multidisciplinary process. Archaeological Survey of India has undertaken detailed geo-technical studies on the caves and the surrounding hill slopes through the Geological Survey of India and the Central Water and Power Research Station, Pune. Contour drains are presently provided on the hill slopes for draining the suface water. Based on the recent recommendations of the Geological Survey of India an additional drain is being designed by the Central Water and Power Research Station.

The conservation of the caves is also monitored by an International Committee of Consultants which has been constituted under the ongoing Japan Bank & International Co-operation (JBIC) project.

(d) and (e) There is requirement of additional security personnel for protection of monuments and museums under the Archaeological Survey of India in the country. In addition to the available strength of 3463 Monument Attendants, the Archaeological Survey of India deploys private security guards (789 personnel) and also engages CISF (459 personnel) for the security of Taj Mahal, Agra and Red Fort, Delhi. The State police and home guards are deployed in some of the site museums. Archaeological Survey of India proposes to install modern security gadgets like CCTV, metal detectors and burglars alarms to augment the physical security system.

Tourists safety from riots and bomb blasts

*89. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of drastic fall in the number of tourists visiting Aurangabad and monuments in its vicinity like Ajanta and Elora caves, a Taj-Mahal Look-like Bibi-ka-Maqbara and recently discovered 50,000 year old meteorite impact Lonar Crater;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor as local traders and others connected with the tourist industry are greatly suffering as they do not have any alternative means of livelihood; and

(c) whether it is due to apprehensions amongst prospective tourists regarding their safety due to riot and recent bomb blasts in Gujarat, Mumbai, Srinagar; etc. and how the situation is going to be tackled?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The domestic and foreign tourist visits to various monuments in the Aurangabad circle of ASI during 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 are given below:-

S.No.	Monuments in Aurangabad Circle of Archaeological Survey of India	Domestic&Foreign Tourist Visits (Nos.) 2002	2003	2004	2005
1.	Ajanta Caves	285524	302333	295036	289919
2.	Ellora Caves	397487	434252	390368	341857
3.	Bibi-ka Maqbara	570302	538246	555545	683488
4.	Other monuments	410808	389502	380241	373637
	TOTAL:	1664121	1664333	1621190	1688901

There was hardly any change in tourist visits to monuments in Aurangabad circle in 2003 *vis-a-vis* 2002. The number of tourist visits has increased in 2005 by about 4 per cent. No estimates of tourist visits to the Lonar Crater in Vidarbha are available. According to the Government of Maharashtra, fluctuations observed in tourist visits are only a temporary phenomenon and the situation has improved recently.

(c) Sporadic incidents of bomb blasts, riots have only immediate and localized adverse impact on tourism. In spite of some incidents of riots and bomb blasts, the total number of domestic and foreign tourist visits to Gujarat, Maharashtra, J&K, and for the country as a whole, shows an increasing trend for the years 2003, 2004 and 2005, as is evident from the

following figures on domestic and foreign tourist visits to the States:—

State	Domestic & Foreign Tourist visits (in Million)		
	2003	2004	2005
Gujarat	7.68	7.77	8.12
Maharashtra	12.26	14.61	15.72
J&K	5.77	6.92	7.28
All India	315.75	374.59	400.41

For the year 2006, it is estimated that the foreign tourist arrivals to India during the period, January-October increased by 13.1% over the corresponding period in the previous year.

In J&K, the valley saw an immediate effect on tourist arrivals after the unfortunate incidents of terrorist activity. Corrective measures including promotional campaign through the print and visual media to control the damage, has resulted in increase in the tourism traffic. Security forces are continuing their sustained campaign against terrorists to further improve the situation.

The State Government remain fully committed to maintaining law & order in the country in association with the Central Government, and tourists should not entertain any apprehensions on this account.

Non-completion of irrigation projects on time

*90. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether irrigation facility is available only to 39 per cent of agricultural land out of a total 14 crore hectare agricultural land;

(b) whether this situation has occurred only due to non-completion of irrigation projects on time;

(c) the details of irrigation projects lying pending together with the reasons for their non-completion and the quantum of funds incurred on these projects so far; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to provide irrigation facilities to each farmer?